

IN THE CLAIMS:

Note that all the claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

9. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a connector for connecting a detachable external device to said information processing apparatus, wherein the detachable external device is denoted as a connected detachable external device when connected to said information processing apparatus by said connector; and

a central processing unit comprising:

recognition means for recognizing connection of the connected detachable external device to said information processing apparatus by said connector and recognizing a device type of the connected detachable external device; and

read means, responsive to said recognition means recognizing connection of the connected detachable external device to said information processing apparatus and the device type, for reading a device driver for controlling the connected detachable external device either from the connected detachable external device through said connector or from a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus, wherein said read means executes a program for loading the device driver for the connected detachable external device connected by said connector.

28. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

connector means for connecting a detachable external device to said information processing apparatus, wherein the detachable external device is denoted as a connected

detachable external device when connected to said information processing apparatus by said connector;

recognition means for recognizing connection of the connected detachable external device to said information processing apparatus by said connector means and recognizing a device type of the connected detachable external device; and

load means, responsive to said recognition means recognizing the device type, for making a determination whether a device driver for controlling the connected detachable external device is to be loaded from the connected detachable external device through said connector means, and loading the device driver into said information processing apparatus in accordance with the determination.

150. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

recognition means for recognizing connection of a connected external device to said information processing apparatus and recognizing a device type of the connected external device; and

read means, responsive to said recognition means recognizing connection of the connected external device to said information processing apparatus and the device type, for reading a device driver for controlling the connected external device either from the connected external device or from a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus.

151. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 150, further comprising control means for controlling the connected external device based on the device driver read by said read means.

152. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 150, wherein said recognition means recognizes connection of the connected external device to said information processing apparatus upon supplying power to said information processing apparatus.

153. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 150, wherein the connected external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

154. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 150, wherein said recognition means recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

155. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 151, further comprising connection means for connecting the connected external device to said information processing apparatus, wherein said control means controls a method of giving a signal to said connection means by executing the device driver.

156. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 150, wherein said apparatus is a notebook personal computer or an electronic pocket book.

157. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 150, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

158. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 150, further comprising a memory for storing the device driver read by said read means.

159. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
recognition means for recognizing connection of a connected external device to said information processing apparatus by and recognizing a device type of the connected external device; and
load means, responsive to said recognition means recognizing the device type, for making a determination whether a device driver for controlling the connected external device is to be loaded from the connected external device, and loading the device driver into said information processing apparatus in accordance with the determination.

160. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, wherein said recognition means recognizes whether the device type is a first type or a second type, and said load means loads the device driver from the connected external device if said recognition means recognizes that the device type is the first type.

161. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 160, wherein said load means loads the device driver from a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus if said recognition means recognizes that the device type is the second type.

162. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, further comprising control means for controlling the connected external device based on the device driver loaded by said load means from the connected external device.

163. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, wherein said recognition means recognizes connection of the connected external device to said information processing apparatus upon supplying power to said information processing apparatus.

164. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, wherein the connected external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

165. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, wherein said recognition means recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

166. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 162, further comprising connection means for connecting the connected external device to said information processing apparatus, wherein said control means controls a method of giving a signal to said connection means by executing the device driver.

167. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, wherein said information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer or an electronic pocket book.

168. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

169. (Unamended) An apparatus according to Claim 159, further comprising a memory for storing the device driver loaded by said load means.

170. (Unamended) A method for using an information processing apparatus and a connected external device detachably connected to the information processing apparatus by connection means, said method comprising:

a connection recognizing step of recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus;

a type recognizing step of recognizing a type of external device connected to the information processing apparatus; and

a reading step of reading a device driver for controlling the connected external device either from the connected external device or from a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus in response to said connection recognizing step recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus and in response to said type recognizing step recognizing the type of external device connected to the information processing apparatus.

171. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 170, further comprising a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver read by said reading step.

172. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 170, wherein said connection recognizing step recognizes connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus upon supplying power to the information processing apparatus.

173. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 170, wherein the connected external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

174. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 170, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

175. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 171, further comprising a connection step of connecting the connected external device to the information processing apparatus with connection means, wherein said controlling step controls a method of giving a signal to the connection means by executing the device driver.

176. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 170, wherein the information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer or an electronic pocket book.

177. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 170, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

178. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 170, further comprising a storing step of storing the device driver read by said reading step in a memory.

179. (Unamended) A method for using an information processing apparatus and a connected external device detachably connected to the information processing apparatus by connection means, said method comprising:

a connection recognizing step of recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus;

a type recognizing step of recognizing a type of external device connected to the information processing apparatus;

a loading determining step of determining whether a device driver for the connected external device is to be loaded from the connected external device into the information processing apparatus in response to said type recognizing step recognizing the type of external device connected to the information processing apparatus; and

a loading step of loading the device driver into the information processing apparatus in accordance with the determination performed in said loading determining step.

180. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes whether the device type is a first type or a second type, and said loading step loads the device driver from the connected external device if said type recognizing step recognizes that the device type is the first type.

181. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 180, wherein said loading step loads the device driver from a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus if said type recognizing step recognizes that the device type is the second type.

182. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, further comprising a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver loaded by said loading step from the connected external device.

183. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, wherein said connection recognizing step recognizes connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus upon supplying power to the information processing apparatus.

184. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, wherein the external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

185. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

186. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 182, further comprising a connection step of connecting the connected external device to the information processing apparatus with connection means, wherein said controlling step controls a method of giving a signal to the connection means by executing the device driver.

187. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, wherein the information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer or an electronic pocket book.

188. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, wherein the information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

189. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 179, further comprising a storing step of storing the device driver loaded by said loading step.

190. (Unamended) A storage medium readable by an information processing apparatus to which a connected external device is detachably connectable, said storage medium storing a program for controlling the operation of the information processing apparatus, the program instructing the information processing apparatus to perform:

a connection recognizing step of recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus;

a type recognizing step of recognizing a type of external device connected to the information processing apparatus; and

a reading step of reading a device driver for controlling the connected external device either from the connected external device or from a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus in response to said connection recognizing step recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus and in response to said type recognizing step recognizing the type of external device connected to the information processing apparatus.

191. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 190, wherein the program stored on said storage medium also instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver read by said reading step.

192. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 190, wherein said connection recognizing step recognizes connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus upon supplying power to the information processing apparatus.

193. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 190, wherein the external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

194. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 190, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

195. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 191, further comprising a connection step of connecting the connected external device to the information processing apparatus with connection means, wherein said controlling step controls a method of giving a signal to the connection means by executing the device driver.

196. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 190, wherein the information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer of an electronic pocket book.

197. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 190, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

198. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 190, wherein the program stored on the storage medium also instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a storing step of storing the device driver read by said reading step in a memory.

199. (Unamended) A storage medium readable by an information processing apparatus to which a connected external device is detachably connectable, said storage medium storing a program for controlling the operation of the information processing apparatus, the program instructing the information processing apparatus to perform:

a connection recognizing step of recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus;

a type recognizing step of recognizing the type of connected external device connected to the information processing apparatus;

a loading determining step of determining whether a device driver for controlling the connected external device is to be loaded from the connected external device into the information processing apparatus in response to said type recognizing step recognizing the type of external device connected to the information processing apparatus; and

a loading step of loading the device driver into the information processing apparatus in accordance with the determination performed in said loading determining step.

200. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes whether the device type is a first type or a second type, and said loading step loads the device driver from the external device if said type recognizing step recognizes that the device type is the first type.

201. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 200, wherein said loading step loads the device driver from a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus if said type recognizing step recognizes that the device type is the second type.

202. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, wherein the program stored on said storage medium also instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver loaded by said loading step from the connected external device.

203. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, wherein said connection recognizing step recognizes connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus upon supplying power to the information processing apparatus.

204. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, wherein the external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

205. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

206. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 202, further comprising a connection step of connecting the connected external device to the information processing apparatus with connection means, wherein said controlling step controls a method of giving a signal to the connection means by executing the device driver wherein the information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer.

207. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, wherein the information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer or an electronic pocket book.

208. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, wherein the information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

209. (Unamended) A storage medium according to Claim 199, further comprising a storing step of storing the device driver loaded by said loading step in a memory.

210. (Unamended) A program for an information processing apparatus to which a connected external device is detachably connected, said program instructing the information processing apparatus to perform:

a connection recognizing step of recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus;

a type recognizing step of recognizing a type of connected external device connected to the information processing apparatus; and

a reading step of reading a device driver for controlling the connected external device either from the connected external device or from a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus in response to said connection recognizing step recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus and in response to said type recognizing step recognizing the type of connected external device connected to the information processing apparatus.

211. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 210, wherein said program further instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver read by said reading step.

212. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 210, wherein said connection recognizing step recognizes connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus upon supplying power to the information processing apparatus.

213. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 210, wherein the connected external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

214. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 210, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

215. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 211, further comprising a connection step of connecting the connected external device to the information processing apparatus with connection means, wherein said controlling step controls a method of giving a signal to the connection means by executing the device driver.

216. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 210, wherein the information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer or an electronic pocket book.

217. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 210, wherein the information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

218. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 210, wherein the program further instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a storing step of storing the device driver read by said reading step in a memory.

219. (Unamended) A program for an information processing apparatus to which a connected external device is detachably connected, said program instructing the information processing apparatus to perform:

a connection recognizing step of recognizing connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus;

a type recognizing step of recognizing a type of connected external device connected to the information processing apparatus;

a loading determining step of determining whether a device driver for the connected external device is to be loaded from the connected external device into the information processing apparatus in response to said type recognizing step recognizing the type of connected external device connected to the information processing apparatus; and

a loading step of loading the device driver into the information processing apparatus in accordance with the determination performed in said loading determining step.

220. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 219, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes whether the device type is a first type or a second type, and said loading step loads the device driver from the connected external device if said type recognizing step recognizes that the device type is the first type.

221. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 220, wherein said loading step loads the device driver from a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus if said type recognizing step recognizes that the device type is the second type.

222. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 219, wherein said program further instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a controlling step of controlling the

connected external device based on the device driver loaded by said loading step from the connected external device.

223. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 219, wherein said connection recognizing step recognizes connection of the connected external device to the information processing apparatus upon supplying power to the information processing apparatus.

224. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 219, wherein the external device comprises a random access memory card or a read only memory card.

225. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 219, wherein said type recognizing step recognizes the device type of the connected external device based on data stored in the connected external device.

226. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 222, further comprising a connection step of connecting the connected external device to the information processing apparatus with connection means, wherein said controlling step controls a method of giving a signal to the connection means by executing the device driver.

227. (Unamended) A program according to Claim 219, wherein the information processing apparatus is a notebook personal computer or an electronic pocket book.